DC

#12
MAR '12

Young Justice™

AS SEEN ON:
CN
CARTOON NETWORK

In the Clutches of Clayface

RATED E everyone dckids.com

young justice™

COME TO ME, MY LOVE...

...MY KALDUR...

KALDUR...

THE FOLIUM

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...AQUALAD! ARE YOU LINKED?

WHAT...?

...OH. YES, MISS MARTIAN, YOUR PSYCHIC LINK FUNCTIONS PERFECTLY.

THAT'S A RELIEF. WE COULDN'T HEAR YOU...

...LIKE YOUR EVERY THOUGHT WAS A MILLION MILES AWAY.

GOTHAM CITY
AUGUST 27, 04:49 EDT

PERHAPS NOT A MILLION...

...BUT HUNDREDS, CERTAINLY. IN ATLANTIS. WITH TULA.

I SHOULD BE THERE WITH HER.

INSTEAD, I AM IN THIS GOTHAM SEWER ON THE HUNT FOR A MONSTER.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

HOURS EARLIER..

MOUNT JUSTICE
AUGUST 26, 21:08 EDT

ATTENTION, TEAM.

TAKE A *ZETA-TUBE* TO *GOTHAM CITY* IMMEDIATELY...

...AND RENDEZVOUS WITH *ROBIN* AT THESE COORDINATES.

WHAT IS THE MISSION?

SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR *ARTEMIS?*

DON'T WAIT. THERE'S A *CREATURE* LOOSE IN MY CITY.

IF IT'S *YOUR* CITY, WHY ARE *WE* HUNTING IT?

Robin's case notes:
Why? Because **we** got owned…

YOU ARE *NOT* TO HUNT IT OR ENGAGE. *TRACK* IT...

...UNTIL I RETURN WITH THE SOLUTION.

…How did this happen?

EARLY THAT MORNING...

GOTHAM CITY
AUGUST 26, 08:15 EDT

WAYNE FOUNDATION

"SO WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, *LUCIUS?*"

NOT SURE, *BRUCE.* THIS ARRIVED, ADDRESSED TO YOU. NO RETURN ADDRESS.

HAS IT BEEN SCANNED?

POST-9/11? OF COURSE. BUT IT APPEARS TO BE...*MUD.*

NOTHING TOXIC, EXPLOSIVE OR RADIOACTIVE. JUST MUD...

...OR PERHAPS *CLAY.*

RRRRRRRR

RARRR

ROAAAARRR

BRUCE, WE NEED TO GET YOU AND DICK OUT OF HERE!

BRUCE?

WHAAATT...?
WHAAT DIIID SHEEEE
DOOO TOOO
MEEEE...?

REALLY THOUGHT HE'D BE A LITTLE LESS *SHEVELED* AFTER THAT...

HOWWWW...?

HOWWWW... DIIID THIIISSSSS HAAAPENNNN...?

THE PREVIOUS NIGHT...

INFINITY ISLAND
AUGUST 25, 23:20 ECT

TALLIAAAAAAA!!!!

I BLAME YOU FOR THIS.

THIS DISCUSSION IS NOT OVER, YOUNG MISTRESS.

HELLO, MATTHEW.

TAAALLIAAA... WHAAT DIIID YOUUU DOOOO?!

WHAT IS THIS *ABOMINATION?*

AND WHAT WAS IT DOING IN MY *LAZARUS PIT?*

IT IS *HAGEN,* MASTER, OR WHAT REMAINS OF HIM...

...THANKS TO THE PIT AND YOUR DAUGHTER.

WHAAAT IISSSS HAAAPPENNIIINNG TOOOO MEEEE...?

WHAAAT AMMMM IIIIII?

YOU ARE A *SHADOW...*

MASTER, YOU ARE HEALED BUT NOT WHOLE...

BUT I *AM* MASTER, UBU.

MASTER OF *ALL* SHADOWS.

SHAADOWSSSSS...

YES, *MATTHEW HAGEN.* YOU ARE A SHADOW...

...AND EVEN THE *POOREST* OF MY SHADOWS--WHICH YOU MOST CERTAINLY ARE--KNOWS HIS MASTER...

AND MUST *OBEY* MY COMMANDS.

OBEYYYY... MMMAAAAASSSSSTERRRR...

NOW. *SLEEP.*

SSSSSLEEEEEEEEP...

SHALL WE *DISPOSE* OF THIS, MASTER?

NO. SEND IT TO *GOTHAM.* TO THE *DETECTIVE.*

A *REWARD* FOR HIS *INTERFERENCE.*

THAT IS PETTY, FATHER. IT IS *BENEATH* YOU.

PERHAPS. BUT IT IS *MY WILL* NEVERTHELESS.

NOW, DAUGHTER, TELL ME...

...HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

MONTHS EARLIER...

TALIA. I DO NOT APPROVE...

...HE IS BENEATH YOU.

INFINITY ISLAND
FEBRUARY 28, 22:07 ECT

PERHAPS. BUT IT IS MY WISH NONETHELESS TO BE WITH HIM.

I KNOW WHOM YOU WANT FOR ME, FATHER--

BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY OF YOU!

--BUT HE DOES NOT WANT ME, RA'S AL GHUL!

HE DOES! I HAVE SEEN IT!

YOU SEE WITH A FATHER'S EYES.

AND I SUPPOSE THERE IS AN ATTRACTION. DARKNESS DOES HOLD A FASCINATION FOR HIM...

...BUT IN HIS EYES, I AM ALWAYS AL GHUL.

HE CANNOT SEE ME WITHOUT THE JUDGMENT OF HIS 'HOLY CALLING'...

...BUT MATTHEW IS DIFFERENT!

MATTHEW HAGEN IS A MERE SHADOW...

...AND ACCORDING TO SENSEI, NOT A VERY GOOD ONE.

BUT WHEN MATTHEW LOOKS AT ME... HE SEES ME!

TO MATTHEW, I AM NOT TALIA AL GHUL...

I AM ONLY TALIA.

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF ME, DAUGHTER?

NO, FATHER. BUT I AM NOT ABOVE WANTING TO BE WANTED FOR MYSELF...

...AND NOT FOR THE ACCIDENT OF MY BIRTH.

=SIGH= THEN HAVE YOUR SHADOW, CHILD, IF HE PLEASES YOU.

BUT BE WARY. SHADOWS ARE, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, SHALLOW--

AND WHAT DEPTHS THEY DO POSSESS...CONTAIN ONLY MORE DARKNESS.

WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE GAVE US HIS *BLESSING*...AFTER HIS FASHION.

ARE YOU HAPPY, TALIA?

VERY. AND YOU?

I WOULD BE. IF NOT FOR...

IF NOT FOR WHAT?

I HAVE *CANCER.*

WHAT?!

I'M GOING TO *DIE,* TALIA. I HAVE SIX MONTHS. A YEAR AT MOST. UNLESS *YOU* SAVE ME.

I KNOW ABOUT THE *LAZARUS PIT*, TALIA! I KNOW IT CAN SAVE ME, *CURE* ME!

IF YOU KNOW OF THE PIT, YOU KNOW MY FATHER *ALONE* MAY USE IT...

BUT YOU CAN GET HIM TO MAKE AN *EXCEPTION* FOR THE MAN YOU LOVE!

NO, MATTHEW! I CANNOT! AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO MY *MOTHER*...

...HE'D MAKE NO EXCEPTION EVEN WERE IT *MY LIFE* AT STAKE!

BUT YOU HAVE *ACCESS!* YOU CAN *SNEAK* ME INTO THE LAZARUS CHAMBER!

AFTER ALL, WHO WOULD STOP YOU?!

YOU'RE *TALIA AL GHUL!*

YES, MATTHEW. YOU ARE CORRECT...

...I *AM* TALIA AL GHUL.

YOU MUST BATHE IN THE PIT-- COMPLETELY *SUBMERGE.*

RIGHT, RIGHT... AND IT'LL *CURE* THE CANCER?

NOT *SIMPLY* CURE YOU. THE PIT WILL MAKE YOU *IMMORTAL.*

LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!

YES, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD.

=ARGGGGGGHHHH= GOD, IT HURTS!!

THE PAIN IS TEMPORARY. THE RESULT, *ETERNAL.*

YOU MUST SUBMERGE.

OKAY, OKAY...

KRASSH

KLICK

BANG BANG BANG

MIGHT I ASK--

NO, SENSEI, YOU MAY NOT.

NO ONE MAY QUESTION TALIA AL GHUL.

BANG BANG

"NO ONE BUT TALIA AL GHUL HERSELF...

"HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?"

BANG

THE YEAR BEFORE...

GOTHAM CITY
AUGUST 27, 00:00 EDT

NO. THIS ISN'T RIGHT. NOT FOR EITHER OF US.

REALLY? BECAUSE IT CERTAINLY *FELT* RIGHT.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU, TALIA, BUT WE *CAN'T* BE TOGETHER...

...NOT AS LONG AS YOU SERVE YOUR FATHER.

THAT AGAIN! YOU CANNOT ASK ME TO *CHOOSE* BETWEEN YOU!

I DON'T. THE FACT THAT YOU *SEE* IT AS A CHOICE SAYS ALL THAT NEEDS SAYING.

BELOVED, WAIT!

NO, TALIA. THIS IS HOW IT HAS TO BE...

"...HOW IT WAS *ALWAYS* MEANT TO HAPPEN."

AND SO, EXACTLY ONE YEAR LATER...

GOTHAM CITY
AUGUST 27, 04:49 EDT

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

CLAY HAPPENS.

TO BE CONTINUED